

[Allen Teavis]

August 31, 1939

Allen Teavis, (Farmer)

Newton, N. C.

Ethel Deal, Writer

Dudley W. Crawford, Reviser Original Names Changed Names

Allen Teavis Amos Teal

Catawba County Cook County

Concordia College Friendship College

Conover Converse C9 - N.C. Box 1-

Amos Teal crossed his legs, lit a cigar and with eyes half closed, spoke softly. "My story is brief.

"I Was born in Cook County, reared on the farm; an sixty eight years old. My father lived alone after I married and was found dead in the bed. We never knew whether he got sick and died or if he had been killed.

"After I finished the free school, far as I could go; I entered Lutheran College at Converse. My intention was to study for the ministry; lack of funds prevented this. After two years I quit and got married.

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"My father gave me a few acres of ground and being a carpenter by trade, I built a two room house and began farming. I worked at the carpenter trade during my spare time. My wife's family were mill people, and she had worked in the cotton mill before marriage. On the farm she kept the housem house did the laundry and canned fruit. Often she went into the fields to help me out those first years. I have nineteen children, born to us in twenty six years. I can't make you understand all the ups and downs we had. The babies come so fast there was no time to get one doctor bill paid and rest up before the next arrived. I've kept house, done the washing, waited on my wife, besides working in the field and doing the cooking. We went to 2 church on Sunday when we could. I belong to the Lutheran Church. It's close to my home. I've raised my children to be christians. If they go astray when they got older-it's not my fault.

"As my family grew larger, I added to my home; a room when I could. I started on five acres of ground, I now have sixty. The children are all married but eight. One girl works in the cooton mill; there are seven at home. The oldest child is thirty eight years old, and the youngest thirteen. I had a tough time raising them. There was so many of them we sure could turn off work. You put about twelve in an acre field, they can hoe it out in an hour. Several of my boys can cook, wash, and iron as nice as any woman. I do some truck farming too; then I have a couple hundred cherry trees. These bring me in quite a bit of money. The picking of the cherries is a job. I let folks come and pick them for so much a quart. For our own use we can about a hundred half gallons. These are seeded with a seeder. We have our cows, chickens and hogs. I raise a lot of potatoes and other vegetables. A couple of the boys work in town. During the winter months I work in the cotton gin. I've been doing this for a good many years. What I make at the gin supplies me with money 3 to pay doctor bills, taxes and my church dues. We have a splendid pastor who has the welfare of the people at heart. I'm a deacon in the church and have taught an adult class in sunday school for a number of years.

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"Death has entered our home twice. A boy, aged twelve died from Bright's disease; another was killed in a car wreck last spring, he was twenty three years old.

"My wife and me both vote a Democrat ticket, the children vote the same way. I think our president is a fine man. I hope he can keep us out of this war that seems to threaten on every side.

"I've never been on relief or had to ask for help. When things got too hard for me friends come to my aid. My one regret is- I couldn't send my children through high school; only two finished. It was impossible for me to get books, clothing and the means to send them. My wife has been so busy, but her health is good; she's fifty eight years old. The girls and boys at home do about all the work and let her take it easy. She belongs to the Ladies' Aid, takes part in prayer services, and is a member of the Home Demonstration Club; she gets a kick out of making and doing all the things they teach.

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"My health is good. I got broke up pretty bad about three year ago in the cotton gin. I got caught in a belt one mornig; it whirled me around the shaft several times. I lay in the hospital for weeks. However, I recovered and feel as good as ever. I intend to take life easy. I'm out of debt and my family is old enough to make their own way. I think it will be nice to grow old among the friends and neighbors I've known and lived with so long. It's nice to feel that you have been useful; even though you've filled a small and humble place."